Crisis in cashew industry in Kerala

1099. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware the Cashew industry which is the biggest traditional industry in Kerala is now facing crisis;

(b) whether Government have evaluated the reasons of the crisis;

(c) if so, what are the results of the evaluation; and

(d) what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSHI): (a) The cashew industry in Kerala, being predominantly in the small scale sector, is regulated by the State Government. The Government of Kerala have not reported of a crisis in the Cashew Industry.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Relief given to families of terrorist victims in Punjab

1100. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what relief is given to the families of such victims of terrorist activities in Punjab who happen to be work-charged employees in different departments of the State Government;

(b) what relief is given when such victims are (i) regular employees and (ii) ad-hoc employees;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to treat the cases of work-charged employees at par with regular and/or ad-hoc employees in the matter of granting such relief;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what is the number of work-charged employees killed by the terrorists and whose families have been relief at par with relief admissible in case of ordinary citizens during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MNISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Impact of indiscriminate felling of trees in Nepal on the Indian Subcontinent

1101. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the danger to ecology and environment created in Nepal due to the indiscriminate cutting down of forests as a result of non-availability of fuel as reported in the Far Eastern Economic Review dated the 1st June, 1989;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to such continued deforestation silting in our rivers is likely to increase and also this may cause floods and droughts in our country; and

(c) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no official intimation about deforestation taking place in Nepal. Deforstation in any catchment area will lead to increased

surface water run-off, soil erosion and landslides. This eventually leads to silting of river beds which may cause floods.

Distribution of tree saplings at cheaper rates to check deforestation

1102. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report on "Alarming Rise in desertification" by the noted writer Ms. Neelam Mathews which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 9th June, 1989;

(b) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take to meet the situation;

(c) whether Government are aware that some years back Forest Departments and Nurseries in several States used to sell tree saplings at a very nominal price;

(d) whether this practice has since been discontinued and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to distribute tree saplings at a nominal rate to check deforestation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is already implementing the Desert Development Programme which was started in 1977-78 and is now under implementation in 17 hot desert districts and 4 cold desert districts. The main activities include afforestation/pasture development, shelter-belt plantations and sand-dune stabilisation.

(c) to (e) In order to promote the Social Forestry programme, the State Forest Departments make available the seedlings either at subsidised rates or free of cost to small and marginal farmers. The criteria of seedlings' distribution is decided by the State Governments. A scheme to promote Decentralised People's Nurseries is also being implemented.

Centrally sponsored Irrigation Scheme for Orissa

1103. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main sources of irrigation in Orissa;

(b) what percentage of the total area of the State is under irrigation at present; and

(c) whether any Centrally Sponsored irrigation scheme for Orissa is under consideration at present and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) The main source of irrigation in Orissa are surface and ground waters.

(b) The percentage of net area under irrigation as relatable to culturable area is 37.86 per cent.

(c) Besides the construction of Potteru Irrigation Project, Command area development works of the five irrigation projects having a total irrigatioin potential of 9.44 lakh hectares have been taken up under the centrally sponsored programmes.

Projects undertaken with World Bank assistance

1104. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the projects which are currently being under-